

GOVERNOR GEORGE H. RYAN



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY



PARTNERS FOR CLEAN AIR

INVITE YOU TO MAKE

THE CLEAN AIR "PLEDGE"



ILLINOIS
DEPOSITORY

JUL 26 2002

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



“Green Pays on Gre

- ♦ The Greater Chicagoland area, currently designated as having a severe ozone problem, has been able to meet or “attain” air quality standards set at the federal level. Therefore, the Chicagoland area is both the largest metropolitan area and the first severe ozone nonattainment area in the nation to achieve this goal and it was accomplished six years ahead of schedule. The State will be petitioning U.S. EPA in the Spring of 2002 to recognize this important achievement that not only signifies a healthier environment but will also benefit the regional economy for years to come. It is now the State’s responsibility to demonstrate that the area will be able to maintain this improved air quality, including showing the continued commitment of both individual and corporate citizens to actions that contribute to cleaner air.
- ♦ **Green Pays on Green Days** is a two fold initiative. First, it is a celebration of the achievements in Air Quality for the Greater Chicagoland area. Second, it is a renewed commitment by businesses, government, and individual citizens to maintain and further reduce air pollution.

n Days” Information

- ♦ The Illinois EPA and the Partners for Clean Air are co-sponsoring the **Green Pays on Green Days** program as an educational initiative to target individual citizens to reduce air pollution in the Greater Chicagoland area.
- ♦ The **Green Pays on Green Days** program, running from May 27, 2002—September 2, 2002, will award environmentally-friendly products, thus encouraging citizens to purchase and use these products in the future. The status of the air quality will be a feature of this program, and prizes will be awarded on days when the six-color national Air Quality Index shows that air quality in the Greater Chicagoland area is good, or on “Green Days”. Individuals that wish to participate in the program must pledge to taking one or more “Green Actions” on Ozone Action Days, when weather conditions are conducive for high ozone levels. Individuals who make this commitment will be eligible to receive the environmentally-friendly prize packages on those Green Days. Additionally, the Grand Prize, an ultra-low emission vehicle, will be awarded at the end of the program.

The national **Air Quality Index (AQI)** is a six-color system which classifies air quality from “Good” to “Hazardous”. Illinois monitors for five major air pollutants that are regulated by the Clean Air Act: ground-level ozone (O3), particulate matter (PM), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO2), and nitrogen oxide (NOx). The pollutant with the highest index value determines the air quality rank for each day. The AQI ranks daily air quality data as Green, Yellow, Orange, Red, Purple or Maroon and provides information focusing on the health effects of air pollution.

RANGES & CATEGORIES	HEALTH EFFECTS	CAUTIONARY STATEMENTS
Good 0-50		
Moderate 51-100		
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups 101-150	Increasing likelihood of respiratory symptoms and breathing discomfort in sensitive groups.	Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor activity.
Unhealthy 151-200	Greater likelihood of respiratory symptoms and breathing difficulty in sensitive groups. Possible respiratory effects in general population.	Active children, adults, & people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should avoid heavy outdoor exertion. All others, especially children, should limit heavy outdoor exertion.
Very Unhealthy 201-300	Increasingly severe symptoms and impaired breathing likely in sensitive groups. Increasing likelihood of respiratory effects in general population.	Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should avoid all outdoor exertion. Everyone else, especially children, should limit outdoor exertion.
Hazardous 301-500	Severe respiratory effects & impaired breathing likely in sensitive groups. Increasingly severe respiratory effects likely in general population.	Everyone should avoid all outdoor exertion

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TO ENTER GREEN PAYS ON GREEN DAYS:

VISIT THE NBC5
WEBSITE AT



What is Your Pledge?

- ☐ Limit driving - rideshare, carpool, walk or bike.
- ☐ Take public transportation - use CTA, Metra and PACE.
- ☐ If you do drive, avoid excessive idling and abrupt starts.
- ☐ Refuel your car after 7 p.m. when sunlight is not as strong.
- ☐ Use gasoline-powered recreational vehicles sparingly.
- ☐ Defer lawn mowing and gardening chores that use gasoline-powered equipment on Ozone Action Days.
- ☐ Choose water-based paints instead of oil-based.
- ☐ Use a charcoal chimney or electric starter instead of lighter fluid when using a barbecue grill.
- ☐ Limit use of household and personal products that cause fumes.
- ☐ Conserve energy at home to reduce energy needs from power plants.

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